

Editorial notes and Comment. Herbert Hoover visit to Des Moines

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Editorial notes and Comment. Herbert Hoover visit to Des Moines." *The Annals of Iowa* 24 (1943), 316-317.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6914>

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENT

With the January number of the Annals of Iowa there was issued a supplement, or supplementary part, which contained a reprint of the notable series of articles embodying the letters and reminiscences of the late Dr. William Salter. This report had two purposes: namely, to put the whole in one convenient volume instead of scattered through six numbers, and also to correct some errors which unfortunately crept into the same when first published. This is a worth-while publication, as these letters and other writings of Doctor Salter are among the finest historical material relating to early Iowa statehood and the social and religious life of the pioneers.

This number is given over largely to a report of the proceedings of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers. Formerly this report was published separately but some years ago the plan was adopted of having the same placed in the Annals of Iowa, because always there was so much of genuine historic interest in the proceedings. That part of the proceedings which took place in the afternoon joint session of the General Assembly will await a later publication.

The U. S. S. Iowa IV, launched at the New York Navy Yard August 27, 1942, was placed in commission February 22, 1943. Governor Bourke B. Hickenlooper attended the ceremonies. Various Iowa organizations are preparing to present the battleship with an athletic outfit, medical first aid and a library. All matters relating to the movements of the vessel since the launching are kept secret during the war.

Herbert Hoover, former president, visited Des Moines for a conference with midwest governors on the problem

of food production and distribution; and when he was here this Department very earnestly urged that he contribute his portrait to the state's gallery of notable sons of Iowa. His response was negative, but not very emphatic, and it is hoped that he will some day respond as desired. The General Assembly joined in the request, by resolution, and as a result the Department now has a very fine autographed photograph of the only president born west of the Mississippi river. It is framed and in the library by the side of a fine array of Iowa authors and writers.

Preparations are under way for a celebration of the centennial of the beginnings of Fort Des Moines, at the Raccoon forks of the Des Moines river. The site was selected by Capt. James Allen prior to May 10, 1843, on which date he wrote from Fort Sanford, to Colonel Kearney at Jefferson Barracks that he had done as he had been ordered; then on May 20, Captain Allen came up the Des Moines river by steamboat and started the actual construction of the fort. This was the second Fort Des Moines; the third is now training headquarters for the WAAC, and south of the city about three miles from the frontier post of the same name.

Prof. Lester J. Cappon, of the University of Virginia, who recently made a survey of the work being done by Iowa in the care and preservation of archives on behalf of the National Archives, Washington, D. C., and the American Association of Archivists, was emphatic in his praise of what Iowa is doing, and especially commended the state for having commenced early and in systematic manner to secure the records of war activities.

The oil portrait of the late Judge Horace E. Deemer, presented to the Department by the family, was painted some years ago by Prof. Chas. A. Cumming of Des Moines. The portrait of Gen. Mathew A. Tinley, pre-

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